21. A method of treatment or prevention of Claim 18 wherein the CD14 variant or fragment includes an isolated protein having no O-glyclosylation and an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% homologous with the amino acid sequence of human serum CD14.

22. A method of treatment or prevention of Claim 18 including the step of administering a composition including a protein that does not include o-glycolation and has an amino acid sequence that is at least 70% homologous with human serum CD14.

23. A method of treatment according to Claim 20 wherein the GI tract disorder is selected from the group consisting of inflammatory bowel disease, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, coeliac disease, intestinal bacterial overgrowth, chronic hepatitis, necrotising enterocolitis, neonotal sepsis, infectious diarrhoea, disbalance of the intestinal microflora, allergic reactions to food and bacterial translocation from the gut to other compartments of the body.

24. A method of treatment of Claim 18 wherein the effective amount of a CD14 variant or fragment thereof which retains the bioactivity of CD14 is administered to an infant.

REMARKS

This Amendment/Response to Restriction Requirement is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed on October 1, 2002. The Office Action requires Applicants to elect between one of three groups of invention: Group I (Claims 1-7 and 9-14); Group II (Claims 8 and 15-17); and Group III (Claims 18 and 19).

Applicants respectfully submit, at the outset, that the Patent Office is reviewing the wrong specification. In this regard, Applicants submitted a new application with the filing of the above-identified patent application. Although this application claims priority from a PCT